



Testimony of Eric Gjede
Vice President of Public Policy, CBIA
Before the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee
Hartford, CT
March 15, 2022

**Testifying in support of
HB 5401: AN ACT EXEMPTING COVID-19 AT-HOME TEST KITS FROM THE SALES AND USE TAXES**

Good afternoon, Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman and members of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am vice president of public policy for CBIA, the Connecticut Business & Industry Association. CBIA is Connecticut's largest business organization, with thousands of member companies, small and large, representing a diverse range of industries from across the state. Ninety-five percent of our member companies are small businesses with less than 100 employees.

CBIA supports HB 5401, but suggests it also include an exemption from the sales tax for personal protective equipment.

There were difficult choices made during the 2019 session. One unfortunate decision was to impose a sales tax on safety apparel critical to many workplaces, including items like personal protective equipment that became a critical resource during the pandemic. While exempting COVID-19 at-home test kits and personal protective equipment from the sales and use taxes will have a minimal fiscal impact on the state, it will result in a savings for both individuals and businesses who purchase these items to provide the safest possible workplaces for both employees and customers.

We thank the proponents of HB 5401 and strongly encourage the committee to support this proposal with our suggested modification.